ORIGINAL STORY: Fummy
ART: Yuna Kagesaki

CHAPTER 3

The Witch's House

The Diary of Ellen

THE WITCH'S HOUSE
The Diary of Ellen
Chapter 3

DID YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME?
.....
...ARE THERE THINGS THAT BELONG TO FATHER LYING AROUND?
AND WHY...
WHAT IS THIS HOUSE?
I...
HMPH. WHAT?
THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED.
.....
WHO WAS IN THAT JAIL BACK THERE?

.....I WANT A FRIEND.
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE, OF COURSE.
SO ANY PLAYMATES MUST COME TO YOU.
YES.
INVITE?
A SIMPLE MATTER.
YOU NEED ONLY INVITE ONE OVER.

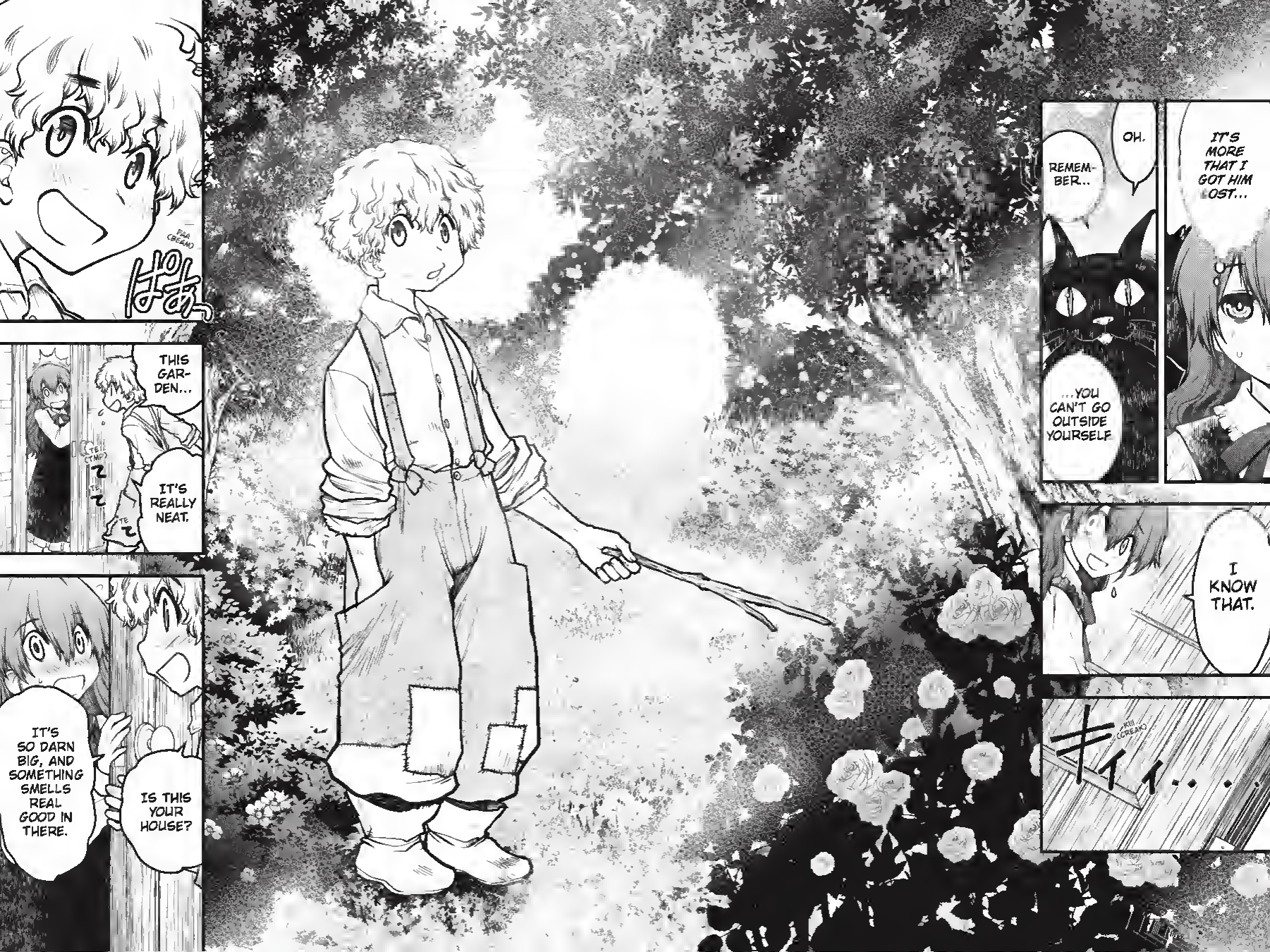
YOU NOW HARBOR MAGIC WITHIN YOUR BODY.
AND THAT POWER EXTENDS AS FAR AS THE SURROUNDING FOREST.
IF THE HOUSE IS THE BRAIN, YOU COULD THINK OF THE FOREST AS YOUR ARMS AND LEGS.
SO...
...WHY NOT GIVE WHAT I'M SUGGESTING A TRY?
MY POWER.
A WITCH'S POWER, THAT IS.
SIMPLY CLOSE YOUR EYES...
...AND ENVISION.
FIRST...
...SEE YOURSELF.

THEN, BEYOND THESE WALLS.
NEXT, THE CONTENTS OF THIS ROOM.
IF YOU CAN IMAGINE IT, THEN YOUR VISION WILL SPREAD FARTHER AND FARTHER OUTSIDE.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.

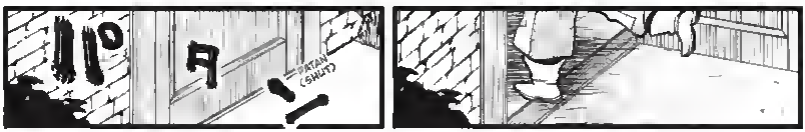
ACK!
GAKU SLUMP
YES.
THAT SENSATION IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO USE MAGIC.
THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME, SO I EXPECT IT HURT A BIT?
BUT...
...YOU'LL GROW ACCUS-TOMED.
THE PROCESS WILL BECOME EASIER AS THE HOUSE LIVENS UP.
...THE HOUSE LIVENS UP? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

SO THIS IS MAGICAL SIGHT.

FOUND SOMEONE.


はぁ～
(SIGH)
THIS GAR-DEN...
IT'S REALLY NEAT.
(TE TE (TMP) TE)
IS THIS YOUR HOUSE?
IT'S SO DARN BIG, AND SOMETHING SMELLS REAL GOOD IN THERE.
OH.
REMEM-BER...
...YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE YOURSELF
IT'S MORE THAT I GOT HIM LOST...
I KNOW THAT.
キィ・・・
(KII (CREAK))

UM.
IF YOU'D LIKE...
KYU! (GRIP)
...YOU CAN COME IN AND EAT WITH ME.
I HAVE CANDY AND STUFF.
REALLY?
CAN I?
WOWEE, AMAZING.
YOUR HOUSE IS SO PRETTY.
I...
I...



THE BOY STARTED COMING OVER TO PLAY A LOT.

HE WOULD SMILE AT ME.

HE WOULD CALL MY NAME.

I WOULD HOLD HIS HAND, AND HE'D HOLD MINE IN RETURN.

I...
...GOT CARRIED AWAY, PLAYING WITH HIM...
...AND THE MORE THE BOY CAME OVER, THE LESS I SAW OF THE BLACK CAT.
NOTHING AT ALL.
WHAT'S WRONG, ELLEN?
EL-LEN.
CAN YOU REALLY READ ALL THESE BOOKS?
"XXXXX"...? WEIRD NAME.
SURE IS.
LEMME SEE. "XXXXX."
WHAT IS ITS NAME?
HEY, SEE THIS BUG HERE?
NAH.
CAN'T SEE HOW READING WOULD BE ALL THAT USEFUL FOR ME.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TEACH YOU TO READ?
ONLY THE SIMPLER ONES.
AH, GOT-CHA.

.....HEY, SO WHAT KINDA WORK DOES YOUR DADDY DO, ELLEN?
DON'T NEED READING TO HARVEST CROPS, Y'KNOW.
NOT LIKE MY MOMMY OR DADDY CAN READ EITHER.
HUH?
.....I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DOES, ACTUAL-LY.
..... MY...
...MY DADDY IS.....
AH!
CAKE!
KYURA
KYURA (SPARKLE)
WISH I COULD LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
MUST BE NICE.
AND YOU'VE GOT ALL THESE BOOKS TOO!
BUT YOU GUYS MUST BE REALLY RICH TO LIVE IN A BIG, OLD HOUSE LIKE THIS ONE.

...OR THAT WOMAN I CALLED "MOTHER."
I...
...DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
NOT ABOUT MY FATHER.
I ENDED EVERYTHING BEFORE EVER KNOWING ABOUT THEM.
...HAVE NOTHING.
I...
ZUKI (THROB) ズキ...!
ELLEN?
YOU OKAY?
BUT...
...I'M NOT SICK ANYMORE, RIGHT?
.....JUST MY IMAGI-NATION?
.....

BASA (FLAP)
SOON ENOUGH, YES.
CAW! CAW!
OUT-SIDE?
HEY, ELLEN. YOU EVER WANNA PLAY OUTSIDE SOMETIME?

SICK?
UM, BECAUSE ... I'M SICK.

WHY NOT?
... CAN'T GO OUT-SIDE...
... ACTU-ALLY...
I...

I BET GOING OUTSIDE JUST A LITTLE WON'T HURT YA.
YOU SEEM FINE, ELLEN.
WHERE AT?

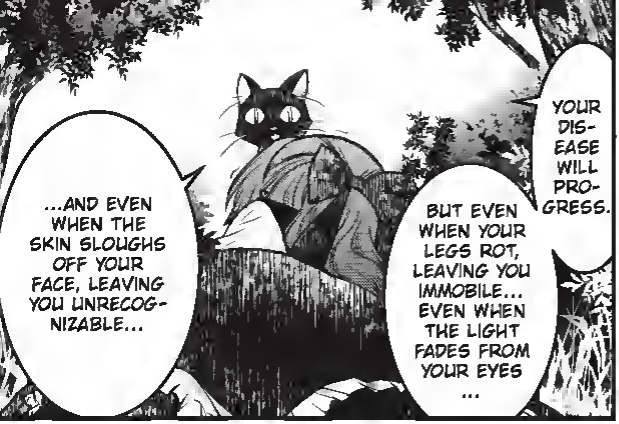
...YOU MUSTN'T EVER GO OUTSIDE.
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT IT'S CALLED?
THERE WAS A REAL BIG BUG OVER BY THAT STUMP
.....
.....
.....
TA (TWO)
だっ

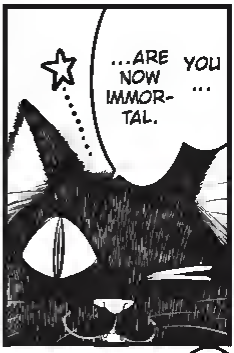
I BET GOING OUTSIDE JUST A LITTLE WON'T HURT.
RIGHT. JUST A LITTLE.
GURA (GLUMP)
DOSHA (FWUMP)
WHY?
PAIN?
DORO (DRIP)
UH.
UGH.
SORRY...
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER!?
EEK!

W—
WAIT.
THIS IS JUST ...
UWAAAHHH!!!
WHY'D HE...?
AHH.
I...
WHY AM I...?
WHEN WE'VE BEEN PLAYING ALL THIS TIME?
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS?
WHY'D HE RUN AWAY?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO STEP FOOT OUTSIDE...
...ELLEN?
...I WAS ALL...
...CURED?
I THOUGHT...
ZUKIN (THUD)
...YOU'RE QUITE SICK, AREN'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, ELLEN...

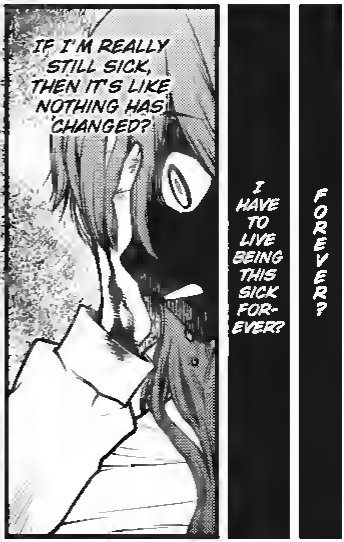
CURED? WHY-EVER WOULD THAT BE?
YOU DIDN'T GET TREAT-ED.
LIAR.
AM NOT.
YOU APPEAR WELL AND HALE INSIDE THE HOUSE...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE PROTECT-ED BY THE MAGIC WITHIN.
BUT...
...WHEN YOU VENTURE OUTSIDE ...
...THE MAGIC COMES UNDONE
LEAVING YOU...
...AS YOU ONCE WERE.
THE FACT THAT YOU USED TO BE SO ILL...
...IS THE BEST REASON YOU HAVE NOT TO LEAVE.
OH.
AND LOOK.
HE'S RUN AWAY TOO.
TOO?
BUT DON'T WOR-RY.
YOU HAVE NO NEED FOR A CURE.
...Why not?
BE-CAUSE WITCH-ES CAN'T DIE.


...AND EVEN WHEN THE SKIN SLOUGHS OFF YOUR FACE, LEAVING YOU UNRECOGNIZABLE...
BUT EVEN WHEN YOUR LEGS ROT, LEAVING YOU IMMOBILE... EVEN WHEN THE LIGHT FADES FROM YOUR EYES ...
YOUR DISEASE WILL PROGRESS.


YOU ...
...ARE NOW IMMORTAL.

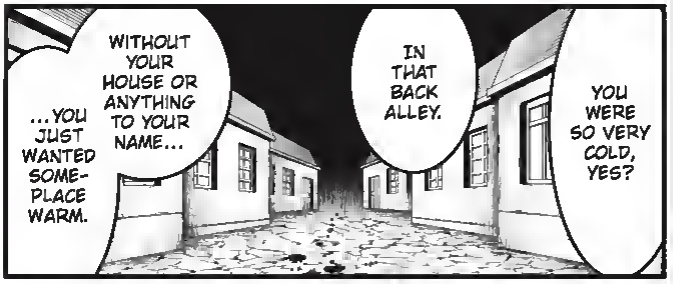
BECAUSE ...
...YOU'RE A WITCH.
YOU... ... WILL LIVE FOREVER.

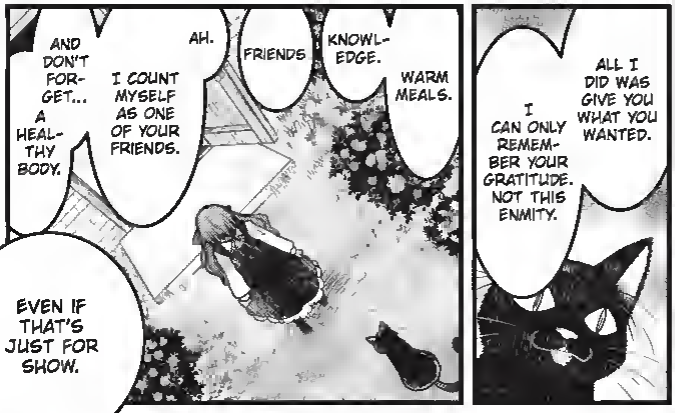
GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, WITHOUT EVER DYING.
I HAVE TO LIVE TRAPPED IN THIS HOUSE FOREVER?
NO. IT'S EVEN WORSE NOW.
LIVING ON WITH MY DISEASE.


IF I'M REALLY STILL SICK, THEN IT'S LIKE NOTHING HAS CHANGED?
I HAVE TO LIVE BEING THIS SICK FOREVER?
FOREVER?

...BECAUSE...
...I'M A WITCH.
I CAN NEVER, EVER LEAVE...

STOP IT, ELLEN. DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY.
I'M FEELING BASHFUL.
...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
WHAT IS... ...THE POINT OF IT?
IF THIS IS HOW I HAVE TO LIVE NOW, THEN...
THEN I WISH ...
YOU WISH YOU'D DIED?
IS THAT IT?



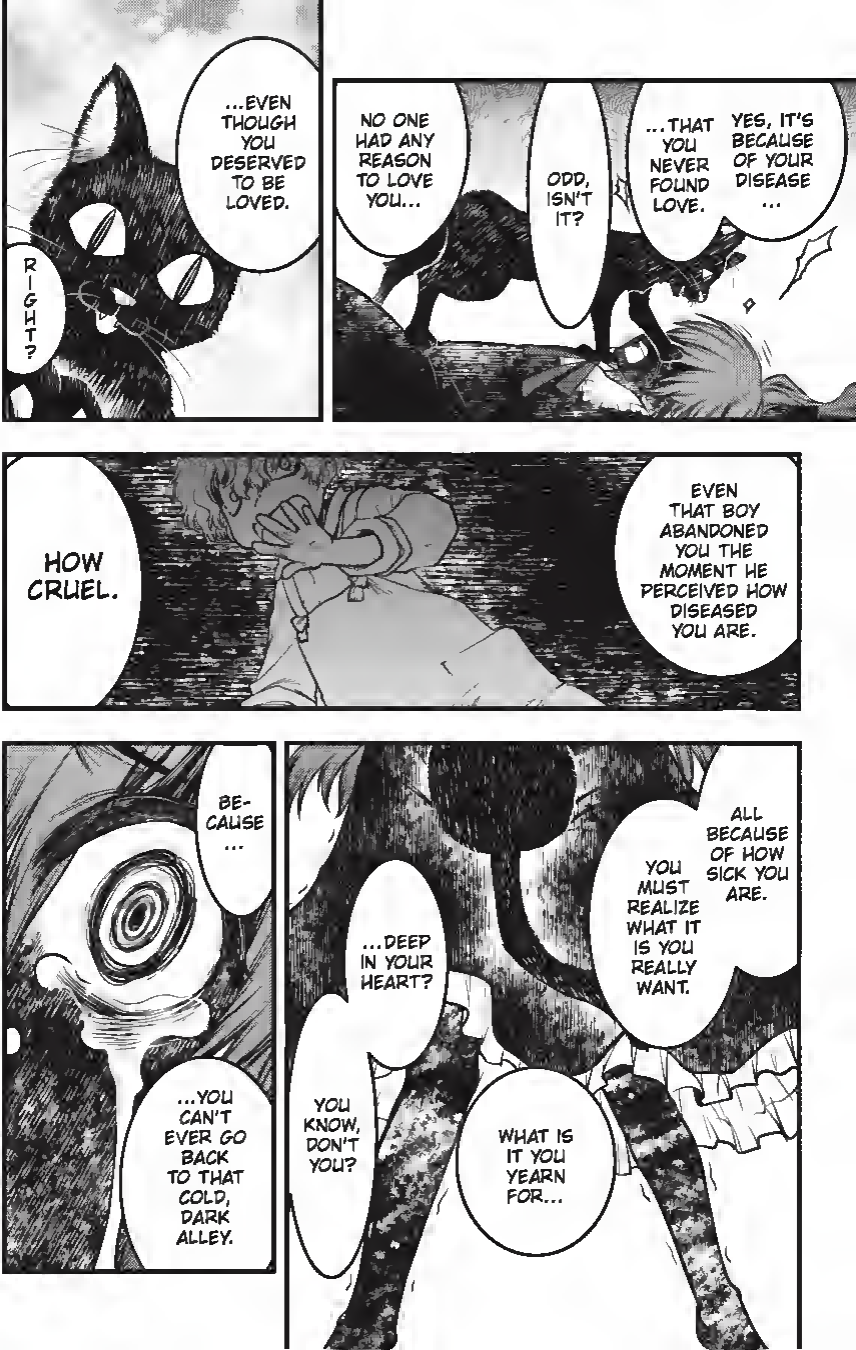

ALL I DID WAS GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANTED.
I CAN ONLY REMEMBER YOUR GRATITUDE. NOT THIS ENMITY.
WARM MEALS.
KNOWLEDGE.
FRIENDS
AH.
I COUNT MYSELF AS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS.
AND DON'T FORGET... A HEALTHY BODY.
EVEN IF THAT'S JUST FOR SHOW.

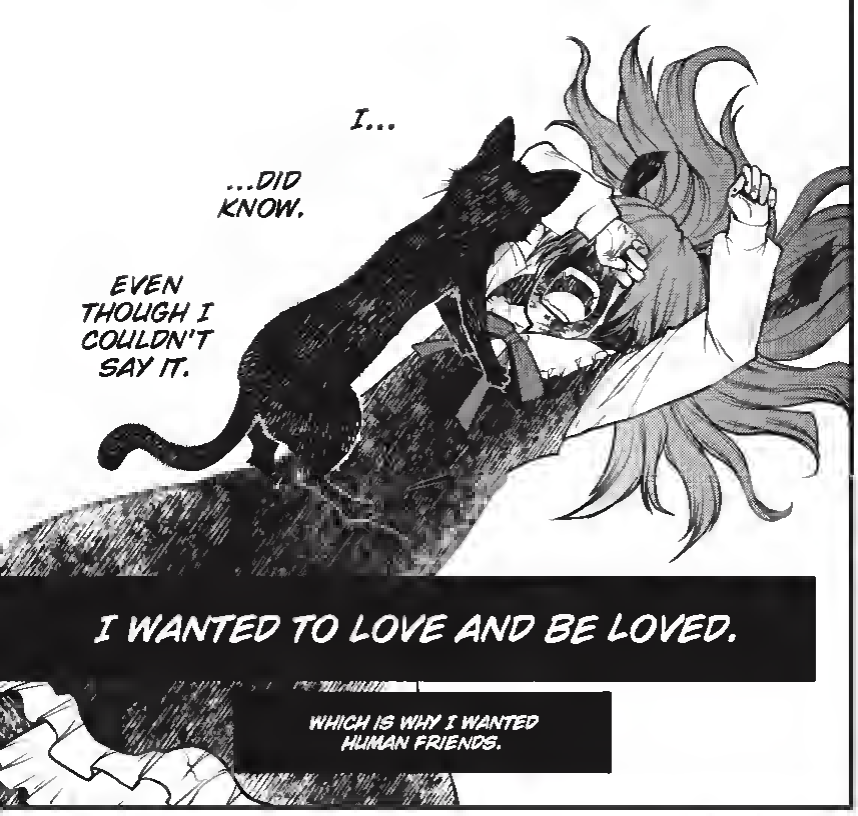
WHAT GOOD IS IT, THEN? BEING A WITCH?

...MISERABLE YOU COULD REALLY BE.
KNOW HOW...
KNOW WHAT?
...WHICH IS WHY YOU NEEDED TO KNOW.
YOU HAD NO IDEA...
.. THAT IS TRUE MISERY.
WHEN THEY FEEL DEATH'S TOUCH..
BUT WHEN THOSE WHO HAVE TASTED SOMETHING BETTER FEEL THE ICY BITE...
THOSE WHO NEVER KNOW WARMTH SIMPLY FREEZE AND DIE.
JUST STOP IT!
WHAT YOU REALLY NEEDED WAS TO UNDERSTAND THE DEPTHS OF YOUR OWN MISERY.
YOU WERE MISERABLE, BUT YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND HAPPINESS IN DEATH.
UNDERSTAND NOW?

I'M SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND MY MISERY?
STOP IT ALREADY ...
SO YOU JUST KILL EVERYONE YOU DON'T LIKE?
GOOD. SUCH A SIMPLE POLICY.
I'M A FAN OF YOUR METHODS.
BUT KNOW THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS.
AHHHHHH!!!
IT'S IMPORTANT TO CRY OUT WHEN YOU'RE COLD...
... ELLEN.

AAH!!
IS LIVING REALLY ALL YOU'RE AFTER?
SIMPLY LIVING? NOTHING MORE?
DO (THUD)
TON (TAP)
UGH!
HU (CHUCKS)
NO, YOU MUST HAVE DESIRES.
TELL ME, ELLEN.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD?
YOU WERE NEVER REALLY LOVED.
NOT BY ANYONE.
YOUR FATHER COULDN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU, AND YOUR MOTHER TRIED TO ABANDON YOU.
YOU WANTED TO BE LOVED...
...AND GIVE LOVE IN RETURN.


...EVEN THOUGH YOU DESERVED TO BE LOVED.
RIGHT?
YES, IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR DISEASE ...
...THAT YOU NEVER FOUND LOVE.
ODD, ISN'T IT?
NO ONE HAD ANY REASON TO LOVE YOU...
EVEN THAT BOY ABANDONED YOU THE MOMENT HE PERCEIVED HOW DISEASED YOU ARE.
HOW CRUEL.
BE-CAUSE ...
...YOU CAN'T EVER GO BACK TO THAT COLD, DARK ALLEY.
ALL BECAUSE OF HOW SICK YOU ARE.
YOU MUST REALIZE WHAT IT IS YOU REALLY WANT.
...DEEP IN YOUR HEART?
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
WHAT IS IT YOU YEARN FOR...



BUT IT WAS ALL A LIE, WASN'T IT?

THE BOY RAN TOO, ONCE HE SAW ME FOR WHO I REALLY AM. JUST LIKE MY MOTHER WHO ABANDONED ME AND MY FATHER WHO COULDN'T LOOK AT ME.

TO BE CONTINUED IN *THE WITCH'S HOUSE* CHAPTER 4 !

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